

**THE GENUS HODOPHYLAX JAMES (DIPTERA:  
ASILIDAE)**

By JOSEPH WILCOX<sup>1</sup>

The genus *Hodophylax* James was erected in 1933 for the species *aridus*, from Colorado. Pritchard in 1938 described *basingeri* from a female specimen from California. In this paper two species are described as new, the male of *basingeri* is described, and a key to the species is given. All references to the genus are given under *aridus*.<sup>2</sup>

*Hodophylax* belongs in the subfamily Dasypogoninae and to the group with a twisted spine at the apex of the fore tibiae. With the pulvilli lacking or atrophied, it can only be confused with *Omniblautus* Pritchard or *Parataracticus* Cole. These genera have the mystax extending to the antennae (composed of sparse bristles in *Parataracticus* and dense hairs in *Omniblautus*), and both have strong dorsocentral and scutellar bristles. In *Hodophylax* the mystax is confined to the lower half of the face, the dorsocentral bristles can hardly be distinguished from the hairs, and the scutellar bristles are weak.

KEY TO THE SPECIES

- 1. Scutellum wholly pollinose; style two-thirds length of third antennal segment; tibiae and tarsi black; face at antennae three-fourths width of one eye ..... 2
- Scutellum laterally bare of pollen; style not more than one-half length of third antennal segment; tibiae and tarsi dorsally reddish; face at antennae two-thirds width of one eye .. 3
- 2. Lower one-fourth of face bare of pollen; hairs of mystax laterally extending one-third distance of antennae; pollinose fasciae on abdominal segments 2-4 entire or nearly so and 2-5 with a central vertical pollinose stripe or spot; mesonotal hairs sparse, appressed and not larger than first antennal segment; length 9-10 mm. (Calif.) ..... *halli*
- Face wholly pollinose; hairs of mystax extending one-half dis-

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tance to antennae; pollinose fasciae interrupted on all abdominal segments; mesonotal hairs semierect and as long or longer than the first two antennal segments; length 5-9 mm. (Calif., Ariz.) ..... *basingeri*

- 3. Scutellum narrowly bare of pollen at sides: female abdominal segments 2-4 with entire pollinose fasciae leaving a bare spot on either side anteriorly and a rounded spot at the middle posteriorly, male segments 2-3 similar but segments 4-5 wholly pollinose; length 7 mm. (Colo., Ariz., Kans., N. M., Texas) ..... *aridus*
- Scutellum broadly bare of pollen laterally; pollinose fasciae of both sexes broadly interrupted on abdominal segments 1-5; length 6-8 mm. (Ariz., N. Mex.) ..... *tolandi*

*Hodophylax aridus* James

*Hodophylax aridus* James, 1933, Amer. Mus. Novitates 596: 1-2.  
*Ablautus mcgregori* Bromley, 1934, Ann. Ent. Soc. America 27 (1): 88. (*New Synonymy*)  
*Hodophylax aridus* James, 1934, Pan-Pac. Ent. 10 (2): 83-84.  
*Hodophylax aridus*, Pritchard, 1938, Pan-Pac. Ent. 14 (3): 129-130.

Originally described from a single female from Crowley, Colo., 1 Sept. 1932 (M. T. James). *Ablautus mcgregori* was described from a single male from Uvalde Co., Texas, 12 Sept. 1932 (S. E. McGregor). The late S. W. Bromley recognized *mcgregori* as a synonym of *aridus* but there appears to be no previous published record. James described the allotype male from Boone, Colo., 5000', 17 Aug. 1928 (R. H. Painter) and recorded specimens from Hamilton Co., Kans., 4000', 6 Aug. 1928 (Painter). Pritchard reported specimens from Artesia, N. M., 30 Aug. 1934 (A. E. Pritchard), and Willcox, Ariz., 30 Aug. 1934 (T. F. Winburn and Painter).

Specimens have been seen from the following additional localities: Hidalgo Co., Texas, 13 Sept. 1933 (S. W. Bromley); Willcox, Ariz., Cochise Co., 18 and 20 Aug. 1958 (R. M. Bohart, G. B. Pitman, D. D. Linsdale); Wenden, Ariz., Yuma Co., 13 Sept. 1954 and Picacho Pass, Pima Co., 13 Sept. 1954 (J. C. Hall).

*Hodophylax basingeri* Pritchard

*Hodophylax basingeri* Pritchard, 1938, Pan-Pac. Ent. 14 (3): 130-131.

Described from a single female specimen from Quail Spring,

San Bernardino Co., Cal., 5 Oct. 1934 (A. J. Basinger), in the Basinger Collection.

*Male*: Length 7 mm. Very similar to female. Six or 7 hairs on either side of the scutellum apically. Pollinose spots on the abdomen confined to the posterior corners of segments 1-5 and lateral margins of segments 2-4 but not following the posterior margin toward the middle as in the female. Small genitalia brown. Halteres yellowish. Wing veins brownish to yellowish, anterior crossvein beyond middle of discal cell.

*Hypotype*: Male, Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino Co., Cal. 17 Sept. 1948 (J. Wilcox); in the Wilcox Collection.

*Other specimens* seen or taken in the following localities: ARIZONA: Ehrenberg, 22 Oct. 1956 (M. W. Stone and Wilcox); 25 mi. E. Gila Bend, 30 Sept. 1955 (G. D. Butler). CALIFORNIA: Indio, 17 Sept. 1947 (A. F. Howland and Wilcox); Julian, San Diego Co., 18 Sept. 1938 (W. N. Burdick); White Water (Palm Springs R.R. Station), 17 Sept. 1948, 10 Nov. 1942, 11 Nov. 1941 (Wilcox); 7, 10 and 10.5 mi. W. Blythe, 2 Oct. 1954 (P. H. Timberlake, J. C. Hall).

#### **Hodophylax tolandi**, n. sp.

*Male*: Length 6 mm. Head black, gray pollinose, hairs and bristles white or yellowish. Mystax short, confined to the oral margin but with short white hairs above on face. Antennae black, the second segment yellowish red; first two segments and style subequal in length, the third  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of the first two segments.

Mesonotum brown and black, gray pollinose, the central stripe and intermediate area brown. Short recumbent hairs white, bristles white, 2-3 presutural, 3 supraalar and 2 postalar, about 7 dorsocentrals but hardly distinguishable from the hairs. Pleurae shining black, propleurae, mesopleurae above, sternopleurae behind and postscutellum densely gray pollinose; hypopleural fringe white. Scutellum brown, the margin black, short white haired and with two pair of white marginal bristles.

Abdomen dark brown becoming lighter apically, short sparse hairs white and with 3-4 white lateral bristles on first segment. Sides of segments 1-5 gray pollinose, slightly following the posterior margin toward the middle on segments 3-4. Genitalia brown.

Legs reddish brown, tip of femora and venter of tibiae black; hairs and bristles white except bristles at tip of tibiae and below on tarsi black; claws black, empodium yellowish white.

Halteres brown; alulae brown, margin and fringe white. Wings

hyaline, basal cells with a tinge of brown, veins light to dark brown. Posterior and anal cells open, anterior crossvein at the middle of the discal cell.

*Female*: length 8 mm. Very Similar. Abdominal segments 1-3 and 6-7 and apical spines dark brown, segments 4-5 light brown.

*Holotype*: Male, Shumway, Arizona, 30 Aug. 1947 (J. Wilcox), Cal. Acad. Sci.

*Allotype*: Female, same data (Guy F. Toland), C.A.S.

*Paratypes* 6 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, type locality, 1 Sept. 1959 (Wilcox); 1 ♀, 18 mi. N. Rodeo, N. M., Hidalgo Co., 25 Aug. 1958 (D. D. Linsdale), University of California, Davis.

### *Hodophylax halli*, n. sp.

*Male*: Length 9 mm. Head black, lower face, cheeks, palpi and proboscis shining; otherwise densely silvery white pollinose. Hairs and bristles white: mystax composed of bristles on oral margin and hairs on either side extending one-third distance to antennae; frons with dense proclinate hairs; ocellar tubercle with sparse erect hairs and about 10 bristles. Face at antennae slightly less and the frons at the vertex slightly more than the width of one eye. First two antennal segments brownish and gray pollinose with white hairs (one strong bristle below on second antennal segment in other specimens), subequal in length, the first narrower than the second; the third and style black, the third  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times length of first two, the style two-thirds the length of the third.

Mesonotum black, the humeri and postalar callosities brown; densely white pollinose, the bisected central stripe and the intermediate area brown. Hairs and bristles white, sparse appressed hairs subequal in length to the first antennal segment; 2-3 post-humerals, 3 presuturals, 2 supraalars, 3 postalars, and about 3 weak posterior dorsocentrals. Pleurae and coxae densely white pollinose, with a diagonal bare black area extending from the sternopleurae to the pteropleurae; hairs white. Scutellum yellowish gray pollinose with 3 weak marginal bristles on either side.

Abdomen black, brown posteriorly on the apical segments; sides of segments 1-6 gray pollinose becoming broader apically, the narrow anterior margin of 2 and the posterior margin of 2-5 interrupted at the middle but with a dorsal vertical pollinose line on 2-5 and a round central spot on 6. Short sparse hairs white, bristles white about 6 on each side of first segment. Genitalia brown, white haired. Venter white pollinose.

Legs black, the basal five-sixths of the femora yellowish red.

Hairs white, rather dense appressed on tibiae and tarsi; bristles white, those below on the tarsi largely black; claws black; empodia short, white.

Halteres yellowish, lower stem brown; alulae yellowish, margin white. Wings hyaline, veins brown, anterior crossvein at four-sevenths the length of the discal cell, anal cell narrowly open, fourth posterior cell slightly narrowed.

*Female*: Length 9 mm. Similar to male. Five marginal hairs on either side of scutellum. Sides of abdominal segments 1-5 pollinose, on segments 2-4 the pollen follows the posterior margin to near the middle and on segment 4 connects with the central spot, central spots more rounded than in male and present on segments 2, 3 and 5; apical spines black.

*Holotype*: Male, Walker Pass, Kern Co., Calif., 21 Sept. 1957 (H. R. Moffitt), University of California (Davis).

*Allotype*: Female, same locality, 22 Sept. 1957 (J. C. Hall), University of Calif. (Davis).

*Paratypes*: 7 ♂♂, 33 ♀♀, same data and collectors and (E. I. Schlinger); 1 ♀, 11 mi. S. Adelanto, Calif., 25 Sept. 1959 (Wilcox).

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